

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/686,399

Examiner

Tuan V. Thai

Applicant(s)

GONZALEZ ET AL.

Art Unit

2186

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 3/20/2006 and IDS submitted 4/21/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-28.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/23/4; 4/21/6
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Tuan V. Thai
TUAN V. THAI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2100

Serial Number: 10/686,399

Art Unit: 2186

Attorney's Docket No.: SNDK.350US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Gonzalez et al. Group: 2186
Serial No.: 10/686,399 Examiner: Tuan Thai
For: AUTOMATED WEAR LEVELING IN NON-VOLATILE STORAGE
 SYSTEMS.

1. This office action is responsive to amendment filed on 03/20/06 and IDS filed on and 04/21/2006. Claims 1-28 are now allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

 The prior arts of record do not teach nor suggest, *either alone or in combination*, **all** the limitations of the claimed invention (claims 1, 7-9, 13, 15, 20 and 24) wherein a system and method of operating a system of erasable and reprogrammable non-volatile memory cells which organized into units of a minimum number of memory cells for simultaneously erasable; particularly the prior arts of record neither teach nor disclose reassigning the boundary addresses to delete at least one unit from each of the zones and to add the one unit to an adjacent zone **without**

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changing the number of units in the individual zones; repetitively reassigning the boundary addresses and accessing the zones until the memory cell units have been moved to the adjacent zones in combining with other limitations within the claims. The prior arts of record do not further disclose repetitively re-mapping the logical groups into the physical groups by removing a portion of the individual physical groups including at least one erase unit at a time and adding the removed erase units to adjacent physical groups in order to maintain a uniform number of erase units in the individual physical groups. In light of the foregoing; claims 1, 7-9, 13, 15, 20 and 24 of the present invention are found to be patentable over the prior art.

Claims 2-6, 10-12, 14, 16-19, 21-23 and 25-28 further limit the allowable independent claims 1, 9, 13, 15, 20 and 24. These claims are therefore allowable for the same reason as set forth above.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan V.

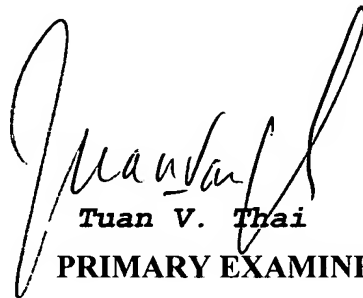
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Thai whose telephone number is (571)-272-41287. The examiner can normally be reached from 6:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mathew M. Kim can be reached on (571)-272-4182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TVT/May 23, 2006


Tuan V. Thai
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